



Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Eric Callisto, Chairperson
Mark Meyer, Commissioner
Lauren Azar, Commissioner

610 North Whitney Way
P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854

PSC REF#: 98464

Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
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July 29, 2008

TO: Wisconsin Eligible Telecommunications Carriers (ETCs)

FROM: Gary A. Evenson, Administrator
Telecommunications Division

HA

RE: Annual Certification of Eligible Telecommunication
Carriers (ETCs) for Eligibility to Receive Federal
High-Cost Fund Support

05-GF-135

Instructions for Filing 2008 Affidavits and Responses to
Questions

By order dated May 23, 2001,¹ the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted a requirement (codified in 47 C.F.R. §54.314) that state commissions file an annual certification with the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) and the FCC regarding all ETCs certified in Wisconsin stating "that all federal high-cost support provided to such carriers will be used only for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." This certification is required so that local exchange carriers designated as ETCs remain eligible to receive federal high-cost support.

The FCC left the state commissions and the affected carriers to develop an appropriate mechanism for these annual certifications. In prior years, the Commission has relied upon sworn affidavits submitted for self certification by the ETCs as the basis for its certification to the FCC and USAC. The Commission will use the same process for annual ETC certifications in 2008.

¹ *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45/CC Docket No. 00-256, Fourteenth Report and Order, Twenty-Second Order on Reconsideration, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in CC Docket No. 96-45, and Report and Order in CC Docket No. 00-256 (FCC 01-157), Rel. May 23, 2001), (FCC Order).

The Commission is in the process of updating the requirements for ETCs in its administrative rules to make them align more closely with the reporting requirements given as guidelines to states by the FCC in its March 17, 2005 order.² Pursuant to that order, the FCC seeks annual reporting of many items. As I did last year, in the absence of updated rules, along with the affidavit, I am asking this year that ETCs identify if they receive federal high-cost funding and, if so, that they provide some information regarding that support and its use.

The Wisconsin State Telecommunications Association (WSTA) has volunteered to request and gather affidavits and responses to the three questions from its member companies and their competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) and wireless ETC affiliates, and deliver them to the Commission, by August 22, 2008. To facilitate a smooth process, I request that all other ETCs also deliver their affidavits and responses to the three questions to the Commission, by August 22, 2008. For your convenience, a copy of an acceptable affidavit form is enclosed, and Attachment A thereto is a form that provides the questions. **The filing should be submitted via the Commission's Electronic Regulatory Filing System (ERFS). The file number is 05-GF-135. There is a link to ERFS on the Commission's web page, at: www.psc.wi.gov.** **Instructions on using ERFS can also be found on the website.**

For those companies that submit affidavits, the Commission staff will draft the necessary memo for a Commission Open Meeting Agenda in September to address the FCC's requirements and make the filing by the October 1, 2008, deadline.

² Report and Order, *In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Rel. Mar. 17, 2005, (FCC 05-45)

Docket 05-GF-135
ETC Annual Certification Memo
Page 3

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Jeff Richter, of my staff,
at (608) 267-9624.

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2008.docx

cc: Peter Gardon, Esq., Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren Norris & Rieselbach SC
Jim Jermain, AT&T
Scott Girard, CenturyTel

Enclosure

STATE OF WISCONSIN)
COUNTY OF _____) ss.

1. I am the _____ of _____ (“Carrier”),
 (Official title) (Company name)
 Wisconsin Utility Number _____ and FCC Study Area Code _____.

3. Carrier is an eligible telecommunications carrier within the meaning of § 214(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996, and is eligible to receive universal service support pursuant to § 254(e) of the Act.

4. Carrier files this affidavit in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission's order of May 23, 2001, in Docket No. 96-45, which requires states to certify to the Federal Communications Commission that all Federal High-Cost Support within this state be used only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended.

5. Carrier hereby states that it will use the Federal High Cost Support Funds only for the provision, maintenance, and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended pursuant to § 254(e) of the Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996.

6. Carrier hereby states that responses to the attached responses to the three questions are complete and accurate.

(signature)

(typed name)

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this day of , 2008.

_____, Notary Public
_____, County, Wisconsin
My Commission Expires _____

Questions for Wisconsin ETCs

(Company name)

Wisconsin Utility Number: _____

FCC Study Area Code: _____

Mark the box with an X for the statement that is true for the Carrier's Wisconsin operations:

Carrier ☐ **does not** receive High Cost Fund support from the federal Universal Service Fund.
[Proceed no further.]

Carrier ☐ **does** receive High Cost Fund support from the federal Universal Service Fund.
[Please answer the following three (3) questions.]

1. What is the amount of federal HCF support received for operations in Wisconsin in 2007 and amount expected to be received in 2008?

2007: \$ _____

2008: \$ _____

2) For what areas (exchanges) is the funding in question 1 provided?

3) High Cost Fund support is provided "for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services for which the support is intended." What are the purposes and principal projects for which the monies in question 1 have been or are being used in the areas identified in question 2?

Purposes:

TIME FRAME	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	COST